## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANT: Nowak, et al.

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TITLE: A BALL VALVE

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Mail Stop Patent Application Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" Certificate No. EV330350459US, service under 37 CFR §1.10 and is addressed to: Mail Stop Patent Application Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on

August 20, 2003 (Date of Deposit).

Joanne A. Romaniello

your

## **PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Dear Sir:

Please amend the application as follows: